

The Examiner has required an election of species pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following patentably distinct species:

- A. Figures 1-7;
- B. Figure 9;
- C. Figure 20; and
- D. Figure 21.

Furthermore, upon electing of either species of Figure B, C or D, Applicant is required further to elect one of piston species, which are identified as piston of Figure 12; piston of Figure 15; piston of Figure 16; piston of Figure 17; piston of Figure 18 and piston of Figure 19.

Applicants, without traverse, respectfully request the Examiner to proceed with Species B principally illustrated in Figure 9 and the piston of Figure 12. Applicants believe that Claims 1-8, 16-28 and 30-35 read on the elected species and that at least Claims 1-8, 28, 30 and 33-35 are generic. Applicants request that the non-elected Claims be held in abeyance for possible rejoinder and/or further prosecution in future divisional and/or continuation applications.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 20, 2008
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1600

By:



Michael J. Schmidt
Reg. No. 34,007

MJS/pmg